

**Proposal To The Leadership Council
South Puget Sound Action Area Local Integrating Organization**

LIO Proposal to the Leadership Council
PSP Staff Analysis – South Puget Sound Action Area

- 1) Describe geographic range
The South Puget Sound Action Area includes the lands and waters south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to the headwaters of the Salish Sea, covering parts of Thurston, Mason, Pierce, and Kitsap counties, as well as the home of the ancestors of the Nisqually, Squaxin Island, and Puyallup Tribes. The South Puget Sound includes two major river systems (the Nisqually and the Deschutes), four large islands, many small islands, and multiple shallow inlets.
- 2) Does the proposed organization have broad support from the local community?
The South Puget Sound LIO proposal was developed by an inclusive group of South Sound tribal and county elected officials, and a working group with members from local organizations, counties, and tribes, representing the broad South Sound community. The LIO will involve participation from county and tribal elected officials on the organization's Executive Committee. It will also involve participation from the broad South Sound community on the South Puget Sound Council, including citizens, counties, tribes, cities, water utilities, non-profit organizations, businesses, outreach organizations, salmon recovery lead entities, river councils, watershed groups, ECB representation, and state and federal agencies. In addition, the organization will include an ongoing Citizens' Advisory Committee and ad-hoc working groups as needed. This is a thoroughly inclusive structure that addresses the need for a robust public process.
- 3) Do they have the ability/capacity/authority to execute roles and responsibilities inherent to a Local Integrating Organization, such as:
 - a. Advising the Partnership on Action Agenda Priorities?
The South Puget Sound LIO will review the existing profile of local Action Agenda strategies, identify a process for prioritizing the strategies, and modify the profile as needed. Through this process the LIO will be able to inform the Partnership on local Action Agenda priorities.
 - b. Providing assistance to enhance implementation work by local groups?
Work being implemented by local groups will be integrated into the prioritization process and the LIO will support and advance the priority strategies identified.
 - c. Working cooperatively to implement strategic actions in the AA?
The South Puget Sound community understands the need to work together to identify priority strategic actions and to direct resources to implement those actions.
 - d. Basing their work in the best scientific information available?
The South Puget Sound community has acknowledged the importance of basing LIO strategies on the best scientific information available. The LIO structure includes the participation of local scientists and technical experts as members of the South Sound Science Working Group, and the South Puget Sound Council. In addition, the LIO will explore opportunities for funding to incorporate scientific research, assess ecosystem functions, and develop an adaptive management process.

- e. Evaluating progress in implementing the AA at the local scale?
The South Puget Sound LIO will identify and implement a strategy for evaluating its progress and adapting its strategic actions as needed.
- 4) Is their structure conducive to actualizing the above roles and responsibilities?
The structure of the proposed organization allows for the existing leadership of tribal and county elected officials on the Executive Committee to direct strategic actions, while experts from local entities on the South Puget Sound Council and Working Groups are responsible for implementation. This approach will utilize existing local authority, promote coordination between existing and new implementation groups, and incorporate local technical expertise.
- 5) How might this proposed organization receive grants and other funds to support staff and assist in the implementation of the local Action Agenda priorities? For example, are they a 501(c)(3) or might they delegate this role to a specific member?
The Executive Committee is currently considering the potential need for a resolution(s) to establish local authority and fiscal responsibility for the organization. The proposed organization will likely receive funds through the Executive Committee or through other local entities, such as counties or tribes, as delegated by the Executive Committee.
- 6) What are the first steps the organization will take, or has taken, toward implementing the Action Agenda?
An ad-hoc working group assigned by the LIO will review the existing local Action Agenda strategies to determine the current status and any revisions needed based on current scientific information. The working group will recommend an updated list of priority strategies for review by the Executive Committee and Council.
- 7) What are the major challenges this group faces? What is being done to address those challenges?
- *Scientific Information: The LIO will incorporate the best available scientific information in its activities and would greatly benefit from funds to support science-based decision-making.*
 - *Operational Funding: The LIO would benefit from operational funding and support.*
- 8) Will this group evolve/change over time?
Over time the LIO will change as it achieves strategic milestones and identifies new strategic priorities.